

SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

Official Organ of the Saint Louis Bird Club
for the Protection,
Enjoyment, Study, and Conservation of
Birds

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Number 9

THE JANUARY MEETING

The January meeting will be held on January 16 at 8:00 P. M. at the Nurses' Home of the Jewish Hospital, corner of Kingshighway and Parkview Place. The annual election of officers will take place, and Clark McAdams, of the Saint Louis Post Dispatch, will give a lecture, illustrated with motion pictures, on the Wilcox Bird Sanctuary for wild ducks in Arkansas.

The new location, just four blocks south of Lindell and with plenty of parking space, is especially desirable, and may be permanent. The meeting will be held in a classroom in the basement, with comfortable seating for a hundred persons. You may enter the building through the first floor entrance or the basement entrance.

We are indebted to Dr. Hetler for obtaining this place.

THE CHRISTMAS CENSUS

The annual Christmas bird census for the Bird Club was taken at Creve Coeur Lake on December 30, with very gratifying results for the three members present. Unfortunately the census was taken a few days too late to be included in the national Bird-Lore census. The following 37 species were observed:

Marsh Hawk, 2
Sparrow Hawk, 2
Herring Gull, 2

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SHAW'S GARDEN HIGHWAY PROJECT

The following is quoted from a letter from Dr. Rudolph Bennett, of Columbia, to Dr. Hetler, dated December 22, 1934.

"Last Saturday I attended a meeting of the State Planning Board in Jefferson City, and while Mr. Harland Bartholomew was talking about the proposed "gardenway" along the new Highway (U. S. 66) from Shaw's Garden at one end to the Garden at Gray's Summit at the other, I had a more or less brilliant idea which I pass on to the St. Louis Bird Club for whatever it may be worth.

"I don't know much about the details of the "gardenway," but if I am correct in understanding that there is to be a considerable zone of cultivation on each side of the highway between these two points, I wonder if it wouldn't be a good project for the St. Louis Bird Club to erect bird houses in considerable numbers along the entire route and see that they are maintained. Of course you could get the help of the Boy Scouts, the Garden Clubs, and other organizations, but let the Bird Club be responsible for guiding and maintaining the project.

"The bird which would best take to such a scheme is the bluebird--and this is as it should be since the bluebird is our official state bird anyway.--"

"A successful bluebird-house project would be quite a move to interest the general

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BOOK REVIEW

American Bird Biographies, by Dr. Arthur A. Allen. (Lakeside Press, Chicago) \$3.50

Dr. Allen's newest book deals in a very valuable and interesting way with the biographies of twenty of our native birds. These articles previously appeared in Bird-Lore. It is beautifully illustrated with a hundred and ninety life photographs taken by the author and also with twenty full-page water color paintings made exclusively for this book by George M. Sutton, Curator of Birds at the Museum of Zoology at Cornell University. This book has been made the Junior Literary Guild selection for January, 1935.

For the bird student this book offers a chance to become acquainted with the lives of some of the common birds in

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

A happy and prosperous New Year to the Bird Club and its friends. This year should produce many beneficial things for the birds and it is up to us as bird enthusiasts to do all we can. However, it will take considerably more action than was demonstrated on December 30 at Creve Coeur, when only four persons were present to partake in the Christmas census. If you have any ideas, thoughts, or fields of action, get busy on them and see what can be done to help improve the condition of birds.

This past year has witnessed a few advances by the Club and this coming year should bring forth a greater number if we will do our best. There are several projects which will be placed before you that will require the cooperation of every member if they are to be brought to a successful conclusion.

The next meeting is important. Come prepared to elect an active, enthusiastic group of officers. The room in which the meeting will be held is quite adequate for our purposes, if we care to use it in the future. The Taylor trolley-car runs within one block of the building and the Kings-highway buses stop in front of the door.

So come prepared to hear an excellent talk and to elect your new slate of officers.

his vicinity. The end of each chapter has a set of questions about the preceding chapter. This is a library book, and has no value in the field. Some of the birds dealt with are: Ruffed Grouse, Screech Owl, Flicker, Redstart, Green Heron, and Duck Hawk. J.P.S.

NESTING BIRDS OF THE ST. LOUIS REGION

This list has been compiled from available records, which are rather sparse and incomplete. Where records were not available, the birds which most logically would nest here are included. The writer would appreciate any corrections or additions.

Pied-billed Grebe
Great Blue Heron
(American Egret)-formerly, future?
Green Heron
Black-crowned Night Heron
American Bittern
Least Bittern
(Com. Canada Goose)-formerly
Mallard-rarely
Gadwall-probably
Blue-winged Teal
Shoveller-probably
Wood Duck
Hooded Merganser
Turkey Vulture
Black Vulture-doubtful
Swallow-tailed Kite-possibly
(Mississippi Kite)-formerly
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Krider's Hawk-possibly
Red-shouldered Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Bald Eagle
Marsh Hawk-probably
American Osprey-probably
Duck Hawk-possibly
Sparrow Hawk
Bob-white
Ring-necked Pheasant
King Rail-probably
Sora-rarely
Florida Gallinule-rarely
Coot
Killdeer
Woodcock
Upland Plover-probably
Spotted Sandpiper
(Solitary Sandpiper)-doubtful
(Wilson's Phalarope)-doubtful
(Least Tern)-formerly, possibly now?
Black Tern
Mourning Dove
(continued on page 4)

THE SPEED OF BIRDS' FLIGHT

The following is quoted from an article in a recent Chicago newspaper:

"Game birds such as the quail, prairie chicken, ruffed grouse, snipe, mallard, black duck, spoonbill, pintail, duck, and widgeon, fly 60 feet a second, or at the rate of 40 miles an hour. Redhead ducks and Bluebills fly 85 feet a second, or 57 miles an hour. Canvasback ducks attain a speed of 61 miles an hour in flying 90 feet a second. Blue-winged and green-winged Teal are capable of 100 feet a second or 68 miles an hour.

"Rapid as are the rates of flight of the above mentioned birds, they are by no means the greatest for feathered flyers. Speediest of birds are credited with flying as fast or faster than 100 miles an hour. The duck Hawk, for instance, according to apparently authentic records collected by the American Museum of Natural History in New York does well over 100 miles an hour, or more than 146 feet a second."

(Small passerine birds travel 54 feet a second, the crow 66 feet per second, geese and brant 70 feet a second, and swifts and swallows 100 feet a second.) T.M.K.

NEW BIRD CLUB MEMBERS

Miss Rose Boss
7340 Stanford

Mr. Fletcher R. Harris
200 W. 4th Street

Dr. Richard Kring
2201 Cherokee

Miss June Schwankhaus
Miss Nancy Schwankhaus
7411 S. Broadway

EVEN THE RAILWAY EXPRESS

Most of us, no doubt, have Noticed the Kingfisher poster on the Railway Express Trucks lately—Mother Kingfisher, perched on a tree-limb over a rippling stream, with a fish in her mouth and five very young and eager Kingfishers grouped before her. Below are the words "Picks up and Delivers — Railway Express." Through the courtesy of the Railway Express, one of these attractive and effective posters has been obtained for the Bird Club. T. M. K.

THE CHRISTMAS CENSUS (cont'd)

Ring-billed Gull, 1
Short-eared Owl, 1
 Northern Flicker, many
 Red-bellied Woodpecker, 8
 Red-headed Woodpecker, 1
 Eastern Hairy Woodpecker, 5
 Northern Downy Woodpecker, 25
 Prairie? Horned Lark, 12
 Eastern Crow, hundreds
 Northern Bluejay, many
 Black-capped Chickadee, 17
 Carolina Chickadee, 10
 Tufted Titmouse, 26
 White-breasted Nuthatch, 2
 Brown Creeper, 4
 Winter Wren, 1
 Carolina Wren, 5
 Mockingbird, 2 pairs (4)
 Eastern Bluebird, 30!
 Northern Shrike, 1
 Starling, 7
 English Sparrow, many
 European Tree Sparrow, 6
 Eastern Red-wing, 1200
 Cardinal, many
 Goldfinch, 3
 Slate-colored Junco, many
 White-crowned Sparrow, 10
 White-Throated Sparrow, 1
 Fox Sparrow, 1
 Swamp Sparrow, 2
 Mississippi Song Sp., many

At Ranken, the Webster Groves Nature Study Society held its Christmas census on December 23, from 8:30 to 3:30.
 (continued on page 6)

NESTING BIRDS—(cont'd)

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Black-billed Cuckoo
Barn Owl
Screech Owl
Great Horned Owl
Barred Owl
Long-eared Owl, probably
Short-eared Owl, possibly
(Saw-whet Owl), doubtful
Chuck-will's-widow
Whip-poor-will
Nighthawk
Chimney Swift
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Red-headed Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, probably
Eastern Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Downy Woodpecker
Eastern Kingbird
Crested Flycatcher
Phoebe
Acadian Flycatcher
Alder Flycatcher, probably
(Least Flycatcher), doubtful
Wood Pewee
Prairie Horned Lark
Tree Swallow
Bank Swallow
Rough-winged Swallow
Barn Swallow
Northern Cliff Swallow
Purple Martin
Bluejay
Crow
Black-capped Chickadee
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Red-breasted Nuthatch, rarely
Western House Wren
Bewick's Wren
Carolina Wren
Prairie Marsh Wren
Short-billed Marsh Wren
Eastern Mockingbird
Catbird
Brown Thrasher
Eastern Robin
Wood Thrush
Eastern Bluebird
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Cedar Waxwing
Migrant Shrike
 (continued on page 5)

ORNITHOLOGICAL EXPEDITION FROM CORNELL UNIVERSITY

"Professor Arthur A. Allen, of the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University, will lead an expedition next spring to search out the haunts of rare North American birds in order to preserve for future generations their habits and calls. A. R. Brand, formerly of the American Museum of Natural History, now an associate in ornithology at Cornell, is sponsoring the expedition. P. P. Kellogg, instructor in ornithology, and Dr. George M. Sutton, Curator of birds, will make up the rest of the party, which will start in two trucks for the South and West at the end of February. The trucks will be equipped with cameras and blinds, and modern sound-recording equipment so that the voices as well as the actions and appearance of the bird can be recorded on films and preserved for posterity.

"Birds that will be studied on this expedition include the ivory-billed woodpecker, the sandhill crane, the limpkin or crying-bird, the trumpeter swan, the lesser prairie chicken, the golden eagle, and perhaps the whooping crane, rarest of all North American birds, and also the largest.

"No attempt will be made to collect or disturb in any way these rare species, while every effort and all modern equipment will be utilized in order to bring back permanent records on films of their environment, their habits, their calls and their companions, so that a habitat group can be set up in the Cornell Museum." *Science*, 1934, Vol. 80, p. 580

NESTING BIRDS (cont'd)

Starling
White-eyed Vireo
Bell's Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Black and White Warbler
Prothonotary Warbler
Worm-eating Warbler
(Golden-winged Warbler, doubtful)
Blue-winged Warbler
Parula Warbler
Yellow Warbler
Cerulean Warbler
Sycamore Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler, probably
Prairie Warbler
Ovenbird
Louisiana Water-thrush
Kentucky Warbler
Northern Yellow-throat
Yellow-breasted Chat
Hooded Warbler
American Redstart
English Sparrow
European Tree Sparrow
Eastern Meadowlark
Eastern Red-wing Blackbird
Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole
Bronzed Grackle
Cowbird
Scarlet Tanager
Summer Tanager
Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Dickcissel
Goldfinch
Red-eyed Towhee
Western Grasshopper Sparrow
Leconte's Sparrow
Western Henslow's Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Chipping Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Swamp Sparrow-probably
Mississippi Song Sparrow

Total 151 species, 9 doubtful
T.M.K.

FIELD OBSERVATION DEPARTMENT

A Golden Eagle was accurately identified flying over Webster Groves, by Maron Thompson on October 14, 1934.

George Foster reports a fine list of birds at Creve Coeur Lake on December 27, 1934, among which were the Lapland Longspur, and a pair of Short-eared Owls. The latter has been found there several times lately.

A Christmas bird census made on December 28, 1934, by John Felker and Jack Stupp revealed the following: Great Horned Owl, Northern and Prairie Horned Larks, Winter and Carolina Wrens, Goldfinch, Lark Sparrow(3), Tree Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, and an immense flock of Chipping Sparrows. The last mentioned is particularly noteworthy considering the date. The above census was taken in the Deer Creek region of St. Louis County.

Stupp also reports a number of Lapland Longspurs in company with Northern and Prairie Horned Larks and Juncos, on December 21, 1934, at John Burroughs School.

A Krider's Hawk was observed on December 8, 1934, by Tom Kirksey, on U.S. Highway 40 in Calloway County, Missouri.

On December 17, 1934, 32 species of birds were observed by Tom Kirksey in St. Louis County. Among them were: Common Canada Goose, Common Mallard, Ring-necked Duck, American Rough-legged Hawk, Robin, Bluebird, European Tree Sparrow, Red-eyed Towhee, etc.

T. M. K.

ANTI-STARLING

A recent development in Washington, D.C., for combating Starlings and for spending government money, is the hiring of men to keep the Starlings awake all night, so they must seek new roosts.

T.M.K.

THE CHRISTMAS CENSUS(cont'd)

The 17 people present were divided into groups and a total list of 30 species of birds was made. Here is the list:

Sharp-shinned Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
Bob-white
Killdeer
Mourning Dove
Pileated Woodpecker, 14!
Red-bellied " , 27
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, 3
Eastern Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Downy Woodpecker
Eastern Crow
Northern Bluejay
Black-capped Chickadee
Carolina Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
White-breasted Nuthatch
Carolina Wren
Eastern Mockingbird
Eastern Robin
Eastern Bluebird
Cedar Waxwing
Purple Finch?
Redpoll, 20
Eastern Goldfinch
Slate-colored Junco
American Tree Sparrow
Mississippi Song Sparrow

This list is noteworthy because of the unusual record of the Redpoll, and the very large number of Pileated Woodpeckers.

Other Christmas bird censuses are described in the Field Observations Department of this issue. T.M.K.

SHAW'S GARDEN--(cont'd)

public in birds, and could well be supplemented by wren-houses, woodpecker-houses, and others as the scheme develops. If you think it is worth doing as a civic matter in which the Bird Club should take the lead, I should be very glad to hear of its progress and to give any assistance that I can give from a distance.---

T. M. K.